



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: September 26, 2008
District: 4 -- Oakland
Contact: Benjamin DeLanty
Phone: (510) 286-5705 (o) or (510) 714-6632 (c)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event Celebrates Completion of Bridges

Devil's Slide tunneling work continues as construction project makes progress

San Mateo County, CA – Today, the California State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) celebrated the completion of two new bridges and welcomed the public to visit the Devil's Slide Bridges and Tunnels Project. Both bridges, which span one thousand feet, rise to a height of 125 feet above the valley below, and cost \$43 million to build, will connect with yet-unfinished twin tunnels to realign a one mile segment of State Route 1, between the towns of Pacifica and Half Moon Bay, just south of San Francisco.

Chief Deputy District Director Dan McElhinney and State Senator Leland Yee both praised the project and this progress. During the day's events, a staff member for U.S. Representative Jackie Speier read Congressional Record testimony, which congratulated Caltrans, acknowledged the progress, and congratulated the team. Her statement also noted the recently passed California legislation, Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 71, authored by State Sen. Yee, which names both as the "Tom Lantos Tunnels."

The work to build these bridges included important safeguards and protection for endangered species, like the California Red Legged Frog. This environmental care extends to the other site, at the yet-to-be completed tunnels, where crews have excavated more than 1,500 feet in the northern bore and more than 1,100 feet in the southern bore. Each tunnel will ultimately measure over 4,200 feet.

The Devil's Slide team has earned high marks for the trend setting, environmentally friendly structures. In addition to the bridges, which were built over untouched frog ponds and protected wetlands, an Operations and Maintenance Center near the tunnels incorporates a vegetative roof. The total construction cost for the entire project is \$325 million received through federal emergency relief.

For more information, please contact Benjamin DeLanty at 510-286-5705 or 510-714-6632 (c)

###

